

English E/IIIA Homework Activities

Pre-Reading Activities

Activity 1 Key Vocabulary Below is a list of adjectives from today's article. Look at the list and decide if these adjectives can use to describe people, things, or both. Then, write an antonym and meaning for that word.

Score: _____ /23

		people	things	antonym	日本語
ex.	unusual	✓	✓	usual	珍しい, 普通でない
1.	respected				
2.	foolish				
3.	poor				
4.	young				
5.	humble				
6.	good				
7.	furiosus				
8.	right				
9.	amused				
10.	guilty				
11.	different				

		people	things	antonym	日本語
12.	delighted				
13.	upset				
14.	pleasant				
15.	fair				
16.	empty				
17.	hot				
18.	huge				
19.	tired				
20.	dispirited				
21.	filthy				
22.	lost				
23.	disrespectful				

Activity 2 Scanning As quickly as possible, find out who said these sentences.

Score: _____ /8

1. ____ "It is really the smell, you know, that makes things taste so good."	a. the student
2. ____ "I demand that you pay me for the smells you have stolen."	b. the student's friend
3. ____ It is only right that I, as chief judge of the city, should hear the case."	c. the shopkeeper
4. ____ "There is no doubt that the student is guilty."	d. Judge Oka
5. ____ "See. I have nothing!"	e. Yagoro
6. ____ "I will be thrown out into the street."	f. the police
7. ____ "Jizo, you are under arrest,"	g. the town people
8. ____ "You deserve to be punished."	

Activity 3 Skimming Quickly skim (read quickly and lightly) this week's article and mark any new words or expressions. In the chart below, write all the new words or expressions you marked. When you are finished skimming, look up these new words in your dictionaries and write the Japanese meaning. When you are finished with today's lesson, add these words and expressions to your Personal Dictionaries.

English	日本語	English	日本語	English	日本語	English	日本語

Reading-in-Detail Activities

Activity 4 Reading in Detail Read today's article slowly and carefully. Try to understand everything in the article. When you are finished, read the article again out loud. Do this several times to help you understand and remember new vocabulary.

Activity 5 Discussion Questions Once you have read the articles several times, think about the questions below. You and your group will discuss these questions in class, so prepare your own opinions and thoughts before you come to class. For the last two, think of two questions about the article on your own.

- What was Judge Oka's decisions? Do you agree with these decisions? Why/Why not?
- What is the "moral" of these story. (A moral is "the lesson or principle taught in a story or fable.")
- What other "things" do you think can be "stolen"? (use your imagination and think!)
- In this story, Judge Oka gave a very "unique" sentence for these "crimes." If you were Judge Oka, what "unique" sentences would you give for these crimes?
 - shoplifting
 - littering
 - child abuse
 - train molesters
 - dishonest politicians
 - drunk driving
- Do you think the justice system in Japan is "just" and "fair"? Why/Why not?
- How should people be punished for more serious crimes like: murder, rape, child molestation, etc.?
- (your question) _____ ?
- (your question) _____ ?

Ōka Tadasuke: the world's most unusual judge

Ōka-echizen-no-kami-Tadamori, commonly called Ōka Tadasuke (1677-1752) was a Japanese samurai in the service of the Tokugawa shogunate. During the reign of Tokugawa Yoshimune, as a magistrate (*machi bugyo*) of Edo, his roles included chief of police, judge and jury, and Yamada Magistrate prior to his tenure as South Magistrate of Edo. With the title Echizen no Kami, he is often known as Ōka Echizen (大岡 忠相). He was highly respected as an incorruptible judge. In addition, he established the first fire brigade made up of commoners, and a city hospital, Koishikawa Yojosho. Later, he advanced to the position of *jisha bugyo*, and subsequently became daimyo of the Nishi Ōhira han.

Ōka and the Stolen Smell by I.G. Edmonds

In the days of old Edo, as Tokyo was once called, storytellers told wonderful tales. Many of the stories were about the wit and wisdom of Ōka Tadasuke.

Ōka was a famous judge. He never refused to hear a complaint. It did not matter if it seemed strange. It did not matter if it seemed foolish. People came to his court with the most unusual cases, but Ōka always agreed to listen to them. The strangest case of all was the famous "Case of the Stolen Smell."

The story began when a poor student rented a room over a *tempura* shop - a shop where fried food is sold. The student was a poor, young man. Everyone liked him, but the shopkeeper was a miser. He suspected one and all of trying to get the better of him. He thought everyone was trying to cheat him.

One day, he heard the student talking with one of his friends.

The friend complained, "It is sad to be so poor that one can afford to eat only plain rice."

"Oh," said the student, "I have found a very fine answer to that problem. Every day, I eat my rice at the same time that the shopkeeper downstairs fries his fish. The smell floats up and it makes my humble rice seem to have much more flavor. It is really the smell, you know, that makes things taste so good."

The shopkeeper was furious. To think that someone was enjoying the smell of his fish for nothing!

"Thief!" he shouted to the student. "I demand that you pay me for the smells you have stolen."

"A smell is a smell," the young man answered. "Anyone can smell what he wants to. I will pay you nothing."

The shopkeeper went into a rage. He rushed to Ōka's court. There he charged the student with theft. Of course, everyone laughed at him. For how could anyone steal a smell? They thought that Ōka would surely smile and send the man away. But to everyone's surprise, the judge agreed to hear the case.

"All people must be given their honor in court," Ōka explained. "This man feels very strongly about the smells of his food. He feels strongly enough to make a complaint. It is only right that I, as chief judge of the city, should hear the case."

The people in the court smiled. They were amused. But Ōka only frowned at them.

Ōka took his place on the bench. They listened very carefully to the evidence. Finally he said, "I have made my decision. There is no doubt that the student is guilty. This is quite clear. Taking another person's property is theft. And I cannot see that a smell is different from any other property."

The shopkeeper was delighted, but the student was very upset. He was quite poor. And now he owed the shopkeeper for three month's worth of smelling. He would surely be thrown into prison.

"How much money do you have?" Ōka asked him.

"Only five mon, Your Honor," the boy answered. "And I need that to pay my rent, or I will be thrown out into the street."

"Let me see the money," said the judge.

The young man held out his hand. Ōka nodded. Then he told him to drop the coins from one hand to the other.

They listened to the pleasant clink of the money as it bounced from hand to hand.

Then Ōka said to the shopkeeper, "Now you have been paid. If you have any other complaints in the future, please bring them to the court. It is our wish always to be fair."

"But, Your Honor," the shopkeeper protested, "I did not get the money! The thief dropped it from one hand to the other. See. I have nothing! See!" He held up his empty hands.

Ōka looked at him very closely. Then Ōka said, "This court believes that the punishment should fit the crime. I have decided that the price of the smell of food shall be the sound of money. Therefore, you have been paid. Justice, as usual, has been done in my court."

THE CASE OF JIZO THE BOUND

A man named Yagoro was an employee of Echigoya dry goods store. One hot summer day he was assigned to carry a huge load of cotton cloth on his shoulder. By the time he came to some welcome shade under a tree at a place called Honjo, he was very tired and wanted to rest for a few minutes. Beneath the tree stood a stone statue of Jizo. Yagoro put his head on the pedestal, lay down, and inadvertently dozed off.

He woke up toward evening and, alas, he found the huge package was gone! Yagoro was dumbfounded. He looked all around the neighborhood and made inquiries about the missing cotton cloth. No one could tell him anything about it.

Dispirited, Yagoro went back to Echigoya and explained what had happened. Nobody believed his story. "Yagoro, you filthy wretch, you must have sold the cotton and spent all the money gambling or going to a house of pleasure. You must pay for the lost merchandise."

Yagoro could not possibly pay such a large amount of money. Having no other alternative, he went to the town court for help. At court Judge Ōka ordered his men to go and arrest the statue of Jizo. The police surrounded the six-foot-tall stone statue. "Jizo, you are under arrest," they said, and tied the stone statue with rope. The spectacle drew quite a crowd of onlookers. The police with the help of the crowd loaded the statue on top of the cart and pulled it from Honjo to the courtroom at Sukiyabashi. The crowd followed the Jizo into court.

Thereupon, Ōka started questioning the Jizo. In the beginning he paid no attention to the crowd, but suddenly he turned to them and said, "It is most disrespectful of you people to come into court without permission. You deserve to be punished." The spectators were stunned. They tried to apologize for their behavior. But Ōka would not let them go free. He had the court clerk record their names and addresses and released them on the condition that they stay home until further notice.

About two weeks later Ōka summoned them and ordered that each of them pay a bundle of cotton cloth as fine. "After all the case started with cotton cloth, so you pay the fine in cotton cloth," said Ōka. They all obeyed the order and paid the fine.

Then Ōka had Yagoro inspect each bundle of cotton cloth carefully. Among the many bundles, Yagoro identified two as containing the same cloth that had been stolen. By finding the place where the cloth had been purchased, Ōka then caught the real thief. From that time on, the Jizo came to be revered as "Wishing Jizo the Bound." And from this story came the belief that Jizo would fulfill the wish of anyone who tied him with a rope.